



The President's Interfaith
and Community Service
Campus Challenge

Funding Interfaith/Community Service Work

You must also join by phone:

Call in Number: 877-917-2511

Participant passcode: 1132138



Purpose

- Identify ways to create an interfaith plan with minimal (or no) financial support



Institutional Information

- GVSU is located in Allendale, MI with additional campuses in Grand Rapids, Holland, Muskegon, and Traverse City
- Public institution with over 25,000 students – tremendous growth in the last 20 years



Institutional Information

- West Michigan is considered one of the most conservative areas in the country
- Campus Climate
- Perception v. Reality

Before the challenge

- Recognized disconnect – what role does religion play in a state institution?
- Astin (2004) emphasizes the importance of spirituality in a liberal education. Benefits include students examining their “inner self” and creating a sense of community and connectedness.
- CIRP Data
 - Over 80% have attended a religious service in the last year.
 - 68.5% of our first year students entered college without ever discussing religion.



President's Challenge

- Student initiated
- Commitment from administration
 - Academic and Student Affairs
- No staff, no money
- Could not do it alone...

In the works

- Interfaith Dialogues
 - Committee Driven, curriculum based
 - 100 students, faculty, and staff

Co-curricular

- Dean's Council
 - Invited to present, distribute materials (including assessment)
- Identified courses with a religion theme and/or a service component
 - Alliance and Conflict: World Construction in Religion and Society (Honors Program)
- Community Read



Community Interfaith Initiatives

- Kaufman Interfaith Institute
- 2012 Year of Interfaith Understanding



Service Office

- Community Service Learning Center
 - Ongoing, established programs (Make a Difference Day)



Multicultural/Diversity Offices

- Collaborate on education programs and speakers
 - Women's Center
 - OMA Professionals of Color Lecture Series: Interfaith panel
 - LGBT “But I am a person of faith!”



Student Organizations

- 20 faith based student organizations
- Over 2000 students
- Funding resource



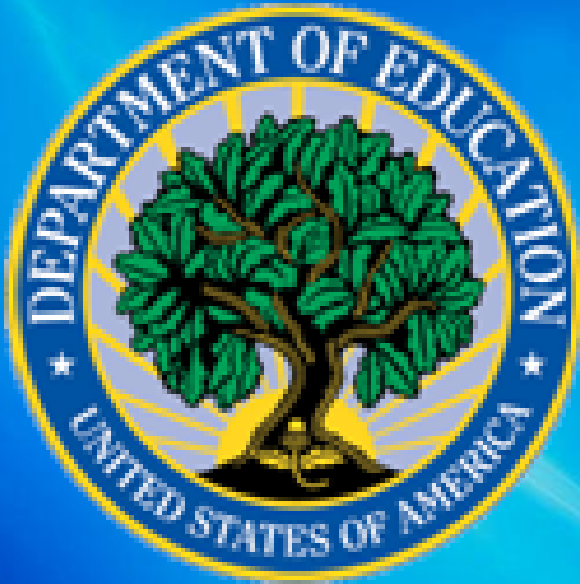
Campus Ministers

- Eager to work with administration
 - Deans of Student Lunches
- Access to students
- Already doing service

Internship

- (No money, no time)
- Student with an interest in interfaith/religion/service
- Course credit, no out of pocket – must be supervised
- Great experience for student

Department of ED Resources



- Work study students
- School Improvement Grants
- Promise Neighborhood Grants

School Improvement Grants



- <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/>
- www.ed.gov

Promise Neighborhood Grants



- <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/promiseneighborhoods/awards.html>
- www.ed.gov
- EdPartners@ED.gov

Ripple effect

- Student Services Staff Training (February 2012)
- Leadership Summit – Social Justice Presentation (February 2012)
- *Grand Valley Magazine*
www.gvsu.edu/gvmagazine/winter-2012-131.htm



What we learned

- Faith is an important aspect of diversity
 - Faculty, staff, and students want to talk about it
- People want to collaborate
- This could be someone's job
- Cannot be a “one time” initiative – how do we make it sustainable?



Questions

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